

INNOVATIONAL APPROACH TO THE NEWLY ADOPTED ALPHABET FOR KAZAKHSTAN

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Introduction As soon as obtaining independence, the newly established governments of Central Asia faced the unprecedented assignment of reformation of all attributes of statehood from scratch. Alongside such spheres namely laws, currency, army, all these countries reinforced their languages. Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan launched the so-called “language policies”.

Uzbekistan was first in deciding to switch from the Cyrillic to the Latin alphabet.

In April this year, 25 years after independence, Kazakh authorities finally announced their intention to shift to the Latin script. However, the recent and governmentally approved new Latin alphabet for Kazakh language is likely to cause inconveniences in usage. In 26th of October in 2017 the First President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev signed a decree of a newly established Latin letters. “Kazak Grammar”, the group of enthusiasts engaged in research activities regarding Kazakh language since 2012, reports that this script may lead to a great number of inconveniences due to apostrophes that replaced Cyrillic digraphs and also several letters that can cause confusion in Kazakh speaking spaces (2017). Therefore, we suggest “Kazak Grammar”, the variant of Latinized alphabet, which appears to be optimal and convenient to benefit from. By investigating the features of this Latin script, we will reveal that this is the most suitable writing system for Kazakhstani state language. We also demonstrate the other three offered variants of Latinized schedule and their disadvantages.

The effectiveness of the usage of Latinized alphabet for Kazakh people Nazarbayev (2017) demonstrates two main reasons. Firstly, the Kazakh Cyrillic alphabet has 4 letters that do not belong to Kazakh language. They are «ш», «щ», «я», «ч» (table 1). Secondly, adoption of Latinized alphabet will promote learning European languages, which are definitely English, Spanish and French. Being a trilingual individual in Kazakhstan shows the capability for concurrency in the international arena.

«ш»	«shch» or «sch»	shchoo-kah (jackfish)
«щ»	«ts»	Lee-tsah (faces)
«я»	«ya»	yakh-ta (yacht)
«ч»	«ch»	meech-tah (dream)

Table 1: The table above reveals that they are used in non-Kazakh words, it also demonstrates the way of their pronunciation.

Three frequently suggested variants of a new Latin schedule for Kazakh language First ones engage usage of apostrophes, i.e. diacritical marks. Apostrophes (' ') are added instead of the missing standard Latin letters. For instance, «Ғ» turns into «g'». From our perspective, this is the most unpractical alphabet that can be chosen from the existing ones. Apostrophes visually separate the words and have adverse effects on the aesthetics of the text. From the technical perspective, the word with the apostrophe does not look as a whole word. Until the recent times, even Google was not able to explore Uzbek words – the search engine considered the apostrophe as a break.

O‘zbekiston Prezidenti Shavkat Mirziyoyev rahbarligida 11 aprel kuni kengaytirilgan videoselektor yig‘ilishi bo‘lib o‘tdi. Unda O‘zbekiston Oliy Majlisi palatalari rahbarlari, Prezidentning Davlat maslahatchilari, Vazirlar Mahkamasi, vazirlik va idoralar, kompaniya va uyushmalar rahbarlari, Qoraqalpog‘iston Jo‘qorg‘i Kengesi Raisi, viloyatlar, Toshkent shahar, mamlakatdagi shahar va tumanlari hokimlari, jamoatchilik vakillari ishtirok etdi, deb xabar qildi O‘zA.

Selektor yig‘ilishida dastlab hayotiy muhim masalalar bo‘yicha fuqarolarning murojaatlarini ko‘rib chiqish borasidagi ishlarning ahvoli muhokama qilindi.

Picture 1: The Uzbek text with apostrophes as an example.

It has been more than 20 years since the introduction of this alphabet. However, still a great number of the texts in Uzbekistan are in Cyrillic.

The second variant of highly suggested Latin alphabets is with the help of “digraphs”. A digraph is a group of two successive letters that represents a single sound or phoneme. In this case, the missing letters in the Latin alphabet are replaced by a combination of letters, usually two: «III» turns into «sh», «F» – «gh», «ø» – «oe». As an example, we can look at the same Uzbek text (Picture 1) – they have applied digraphs to indicate some letters of the language. The advantages of this option are that we do not need to invent special computer layouts, rather to use a standard keyboard with Latin buttons. Disadvantages are that the volume of the text increases, but the speed of its dialing slows down, the convenience of perception decreases.

Finally, diacritics are various hook dashes that supplemented to the letters in order to reflect the missing sounds of the language. Accents and umlauts undoubtedly solve the problem of letters insufficiency in the alphabet. However, they create visual waste. Laconic text turns into a horned-caustic something.

Picture 2 (below): An example Latinized text in Kazakh language, which is used by the information agency “KazInform”.

I. XXI ĞASIRDAĞI ULTTIQ SANA TWRALI

Küllü jer jüzi bizdiñ köz aldımızda özgerwde. Älemde bağıtı äli bulñğır, jaña tarixi kezeñ bastaldı. Kün sanap özgerip jatqan dübirli düniede sana-sezimimiz ben dünietanımızğa äbden siñip qalğan taptawrın qağidalardan arılmasaq, köş basındağı eldermen terezemizdi teñep, iñq tüyistirw mümkin emes. Özgerw üşin özimizdi mıqtap qolğa alıp, zaman ağımına ikemdelw arqılı jaña däwirdiñ jağımdı jaqtarın boyğa siñirwimiz kerek.

Innovational approach to the newly adopted alphabet for Kazakhstan “Yanalif” – (“new alphabet”) was the first universal Latin alphabet used during the Soviet epoch for the Turkic languages in 1930s. *The shortage of letters in Yanalif was resolved by applying diacritics and inventing unique symbols that did not exist in Latin alphabet.*

Kazak Grammar adopted the letter “C” from Yanalif to replace the Cyrillic “III”.

	<i>Kazakh alphabet</i>	<i>Kazakh words in Latin script (Kazak Grammar)</i>	<i>Kazakh words in Cyrillic</i>
1	Aa	alac	алаш
2	Bb	buw	бу
3	Cc	cac	шаш
4	Dd	daw	дау

5	Ee	ec	еш
6	Gg	sogıw	соғу
7	Iı	ıyık	иық
8	Jj	jak	жақ
9	Kk	kırgız	қырғыз
10	Ll	lak	лақ
11	Mm	mıy	ми
12	Nn	nuw	ну
13	Oo	okıw	оқу
14	Pp	pıcak	пышақ
15	Rr	ruw	ру
16	Ss	sulı	сұлы
17	Tt	tuw	ту
18	Uu	ulı	ұлы
19	Ww	awla	аула
20	Yy	ay	ай
21	Zz	zertew	зерттеу
22	Ää	än	ән
23	İi	in	ін
24	Öö	ön	өн
25	Üü	ün	үн
26	Ŋŋ	oŋ	оң

The methods of writing the Kazakh letters namely “K” and “Қ”, “Г” and “Ғ” The Latinized script suggested by Kazak Grammar is based on the originated system of Kazakh language. There are 9 vowels and 19 consonants in the script of Kazak Grammar. However, there are 26 letters, not 28.

5 voiceless consonants: Kk (к, қ), Tt, Pp, Ss, Cc (ш)	4 hard vowels: Aa, Iı (ы), Uu (ү), Oo
5 voiced consonants: Gg (г, ғ), Dd, Bb, Zz, Jj (ж)	5 soft vowels: Ee, Ää (ә), İi (і), Üü (у), Öö (ө)
7 sonorants: Mm, Nn, Ŋŋ (ң), Ll, Rr, Yy (й), Ww (у)	

Kazak Grammar focuses on the law of consensus. Firstly, in Kazakh language “K” is always used with the soft vowels and “Қ” also used in words with hard vowels. In this case, the Latin “K” is the alternative for both two letters. Secondly, the similar case as “G” stands for Kazakh “Г” and “Ғ”. Similarly, the vowels will indicate the hardness or softness of pronunciation:

kal [қал]	kel [кел]
kıl [қыл]	kil [кіл]
kul [құл]	kül [күл]
kol [қол]	köl [көл]
kazak [қазақ]	kezek [кезек]
kırgız [қырғыз]	kirgiz [кіргіз]
karıs [қарыс]	käris [кәріс]

